



718.286.6000
WWW.QUEENSDA.ORG

QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE (718) 286-6315
QDACommunications@queensda.org

**FDNY EMT CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER IN UNPROVOKED SHOOTING OF
36-YEAR-OLD MAN IN ASTORIA**

Faces up to 25 Years in Prison if Convicted

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced that Isaiah Keller, an FDNY emergency medical technician, was charged with attempted murder, assault and weapon possession for the shooting of a 36-year-old man on a residential block in Astoria in the early morning of August 31. The defendant and victim did not know one another.

District Attorney Katz said: “This defendant, who is an FDNY EMT, is entrusted with saving the lives of his fellow New Yorkers. As alleged, Isaiah Keller broke that promise and shot a man in the streets of Astoria in the early morning hours of August 31, causing serious injuries.”

Keller, 26, of 147th Street in Jamaica, was arraigned yesterday on a criminal complaint charging him with attempted murder in the second degree, two counts of assault in the first degree, two counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree and reckless endangerment in the first degree.

Criminal Court Judge Maria Gonzalez ordered the defendant to return to court Friday.

If convicted of the top count, Kelly faces a potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

DA Katz said that, according to the charges, video surveillance showed Keller arriving in Astoria at approximately 2:51 a.m. on August 31 and walking in the neighborhood.

At approximately 3:55 a.m. Keller walked up behind 36-year-old Eric Connor, interacted with him and took out a gun and fired it twice. He hit the victim in the left thigh and right foot and then fled.

Connor was taken to a local hospital where he underwent surgery to remove a bullet lodged in his femur. He is continuing to receive medical treatment for his injuries.

Keller was arrested Tuesday.

Assistant District Attorneys Manaal Khokhar and Christine Thambuswamy, of the District Attorney’s Public Corruption Bureau, are prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Christine Oliveri, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive District Attorney for Investigations Gerard A. Brave.

Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Archived press releases are available at www.queensda.org.

